

History
of the
Pa. Farm Products
Show
—
Johnson

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HISTORY OF THE PENNSYLVANIA FARM PRODUCTS SHOW

Historian
George Fisk Johnson

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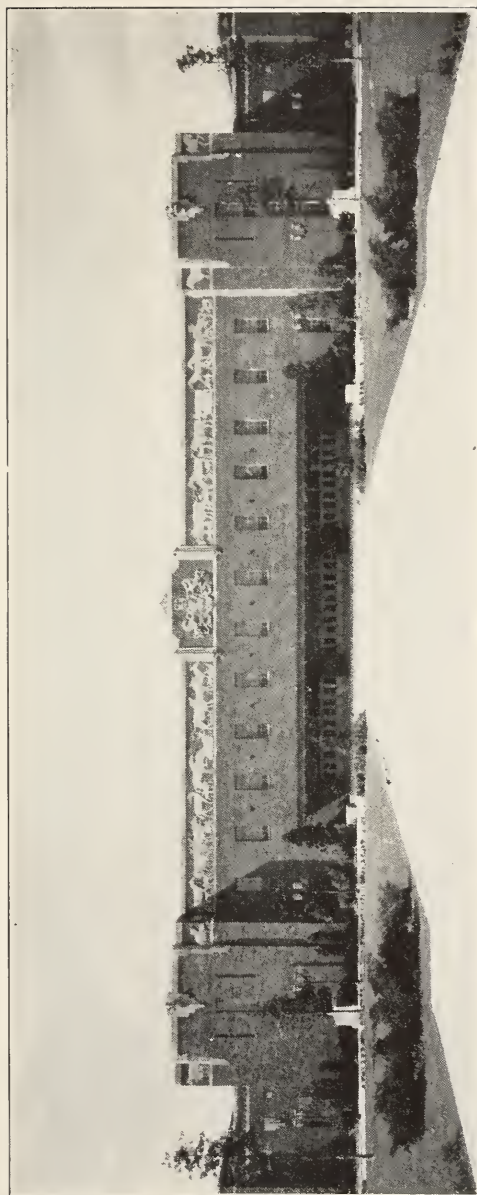
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J. Hansell French, Secretary of Agriculture

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Farm Show Building



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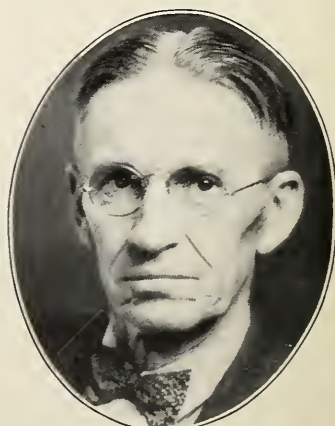
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PREFACE

In the fall of 1935, Secretary of Agriculture J. Hansell French (chairman of the State Farm Products Show Commission) desired facts relative to the early farm shows, for presentation in observance of the twentieth annual Pennsylvania Farm Show, held in Harrisburg, January 20-24, 1936. Unfortunately, printed information regarding these exhibitions was very fragmentary so that the entire record was in danger of being lost completely.

Secretary French, therefore, suggested that the present writer investigate the reports of Pennsylvania farm exhibits held during the Nineteenth Century and interview the men who were most active in the State farm shows since 1900, with the idea of preparing a detailed history covering the entire development.

In doing this work, the writer wishes to extend sincerest thanks and appreciation to the following men for their hearty cooperation without which the task could not have been accomplished: E. S. Bayard, Pittsburgh; Chester J. Tyson, Gardners, Adams County; E. K. Hibshman, State College; Henry E. Klugh, Harrisburg; Miles Horst, Harrisburg; G. B. Stichter, Philadelphia, and the members of the State Farm Products Show Commission.

GEORGE FISKE JOHNSON
Harrisburg, March 18, 1936

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A History of Pennsylvania Farm Shows

By George Fiske Johnson, Ph.D.

THE idea of holding farm shows or exhibitions essentially for an educational purpose in contrast to the purely commercial fair or market seems to have had its official birth in Scotland. In 1783 the "Highlands and Agricultural Society of Scotland" was formed with the primary purpose to advance "agricultural meetings with a general show of stock, implements, farm and dairy products, to be held in a number of towns in Scotland."¹ The government appropriated 10,000 pounds (approximately \$50,000 in present-day exchange) for the use of the organization.

Pennsylvania has probably contributed more to the development of this type of farm exhibition than any other State in America. Under the guidance of William Penn, fairs for the sale of wares and produce were established very early in the history of colonial Pennsylvania as in other colonies. Penn's leading object in establishing fairs in Philadelphia and the province was to promote industrial enterprises. The first Philadelphia fair was held in 1686. Fairs were held twice a year, three days each in May and November. Penn also offered prizes for superior work in manufactures. History records the fact that in 1686 Abraham Op den Graaffe of Germantown, Pennsylvania, petitioned council to grant him the Governor's premium for "the first and finest piece of linen cloth."² The reason for this emphasis on manufacturing rather than agriculture was undoubtedly due to the need for establishing a balance of trade that would bring money into the colony. Nevertheless, these ideas were eventually applied to agriculture in the development of the county fair,³ and combined with the Scotch plan, probably had some influence in the establishment of the early farm shows in America. Intermittently since 1809, local or State agricultural exhibits sponsored by farmers' groups primarily for educational purposes, have been a feature of rural history in this Commonwealth.

The Pennsylvania Farm Show held annually in a ten-acre building in Harrisburg in conjunction with thirty or more agricultural conventions and attended during a five-day period by approximately 250,000 people, is probably the most outstanding and unique example of the original Scotch concept of agricultural meetings in connection with a farm products show that can be

¹Burnet Landreth, *Historical Notice of Other Early Agricultural Societies*, Report of Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society, 1885, p. 146.

²History of Philadelphia, 1609-1884, Scharf and Westcott, Vol. 1, p. 153.

³See Appendix A.

found any place in the world today. This Show is rooted deep in a century and a quarter of experience and has grown out of the courage and conviction of four generations of progressive farmers in Pennsylvania. The background and evolution of this Show is an interesting commentary on farm progress in America.

THE PHILADELPHIA CATTLE SHOW

On July 18 and 19, 1809 the "Pennsylvania Society for Improving the Breed of Cattle" held a Cattle Show at Bush Hill in Philadelphia.⁴ Premiums amounting to \$900 were offered for the best cattle and sheep excepting the Merino. The officials of the Society explained that they did not "think it worth while to offer a premium for Merino Sheep as the public ought to be fully aware of their importance."

The Philadelphia Cattle Show is of great historic significance since it provided an example which Elkanah Watson (regarded as the father of farm shows in America) followed in establishing the Berkshire Agricultural Society and Cattle Show at Pittsfield, Massachusetts in 1810. Watson in his first address to the citizens of his community explained that his efforts in forming the Berkshire Society were stimulated by the example set in Philadelphia by "The Cattle Society."⁵

Previous to the efforts of Watson, the farm show was principally a man's institution. This was true of the shows in England and the "Cattle Shows" at Philadelphia. Perhaps Watson's greatest contribution to the evolution of such exhibitions was his success in breaking down this original concept of the farm show and broadening it to include what he termed "domestic manufactures." In his third show, held in 1812, he made a special effort to interest the women by announcing premiums for products of the home especially "woolens and linens."⁶ In addition to a Department for home exhibits, Watson enlivened his show with an agricultural ball which was held on the evening of the final day of the exhibition. Watson's successful effort in developing a farm show which would appeal to rural women was a turning point in the history of rural sociology; it is mentioned here because of its century-long influence upon the scope of these agricultural events so well

⁴History of Philadelphia, 1609-1884, Scharf and Westcott, Vol. 1, p. 543. Previous to the Philadelphia Cattle Show, several somewhat similar exhibitions had been held in Washington, D. C. A sale and show was arranged in Washington April 26, 1805 at which premiums were offered "to the best lamb, sheep, steer, milk cow, yoke of oxen, and horse actually sold." This show provides an excellent example of the transition from the commercial fair to the educational show in that the judging was done apparently after the animals were sold rather than before. In the livestock show and sale held in Washington in May 1809, by the Columbian Agricultural Society, a competition with premiums was provided for the owners who desired to enter their livestock, and in addition farmers were invited to bring livestock for sale only. (Benjamin Perley Poore, History of the Agriculture in the United States, Commissioner of Agriculture, Report 1866, pp. 516-522)

⁵American Farmer (1820), Vol. 2, p. 159.

⁶Elkanah Watson, *History of Western Canals ** together with the rise of the Modern Agricultural Societies, on the Berkshire System****, (1820) p. 126.

exemplified in the prominent part taken by rural women in the present Pennsylvania Farm Show.

EARLY LEGISLATIVE EFFORT

The influence of Watson's good work can be seen in the movement started in Pennsylvania in 1820 to "reward" persons in agriculture and *domestic manufactures* because of their skill and industry. A law, to remain in effect for eight years, was enacted by the General Assembly (Act of March 6, 1820, P.L. 51) which provided for the formation of county societies for promotion of agriculture (similar to the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture organized in 1785.) These societies were to be financed by county taxes at the rate of \$50 for each member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from the county. The society was to determine what "articles of agriculture, production or improvement of domestic manufactures***are entitled to encouragement by rewards." (The Philadelphia Society offered similar awards as early as 1791.—W. C. Neely, *The Agricultural Fair*, p. 40.) The county society was to hold meetings at which applicants for rewards were to appear with "proof or specimens" to support their application. Section 7 of this Act stated:

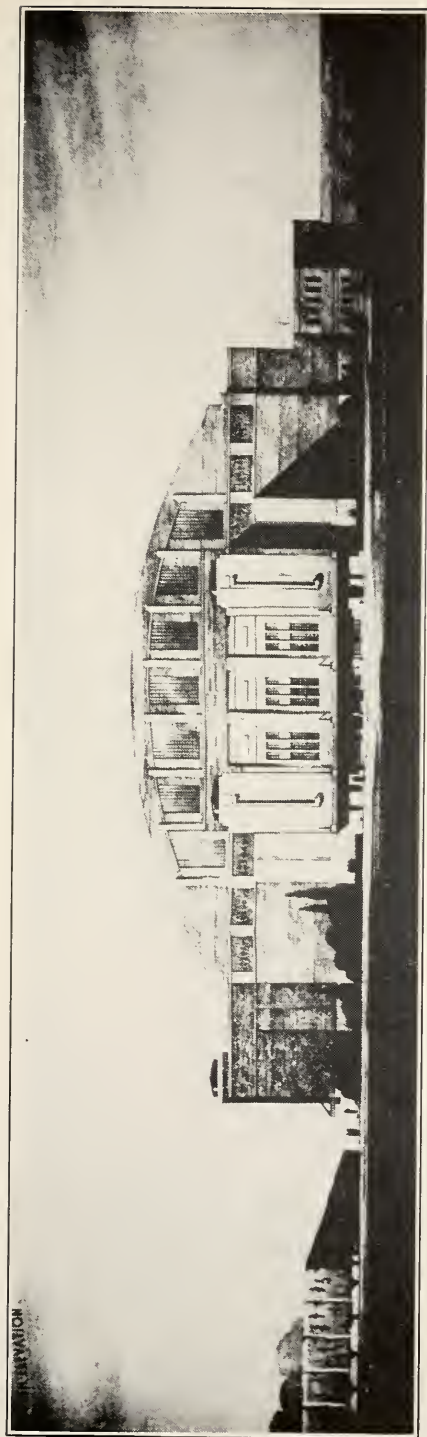
"The rewards for promoting or increasing the culture of sugar from maple or sugar trees,***the extraction of salts from ashes of vegetables, the introduction of any new grain, grass or root into cultivation, the raising of the greatest quantity of grain, grass or roots on a given quantity of ground, the invention of any new and useful utensils in husbandry, the raising and manufacture of wool, hemp and flax in greater quantities, or improving the value thereof, the introduction of mineral or other manures, the improvement of the breeds of horses, black cattle, sheep or hogs, the making of butter or cheese in any given quantity,***shall be considered by the said Society as among the objects contemplated by this Act."

How enthusiastically the Act was received is not recorded, but undoubtedly the first agricultural exhibit arranged by the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture, was the outgrowth of this legislation. The exhibit was held June 4-5, 1822 near Philadelphia.⁷ Other counties apparently did not take advantage of the legislation, for in 1823 it was amended to provide for the formation of a State Agricultural Society.

On March 21, 1823, Governor Joseph Hiester approved an act "Incorporating the Pennsylvania Agricultural Society" (Act of March 21, 1823, P.L. 223). This Society was to hold an annual organization meeting on the second Saturday of January each year.⁸ Section 4 of the act provided that a meeting should also be held annually "for the purpose of an exhibition and cattle

⁷American Farmer, Vol. 4, p. 121.

⁸This designation (more than a century ago) of January as the time of the annual meeting of farmers is very significant since January has now become the popular time for holding most State Agricultural conventions in Pennsylvania as well as the Pennsylvania Farm Show.



Drawing of Proposed Coliseum at Farm Show Building

show" which was to be held "in the following order successively: In Montgomery, Chester, Delaware, and Philadelphia Counties." If a county did not contribute at the rate of \$50 per year per member of the State House of Representatives, then the exhibit would not be held there. The following important restriction was placed in the law: "If any person or persons shall bring any kind of spiritous liquors, *cider* or malt liquors***within a distance of two miles of the place where the agricultural meeting or exhibition shall be held, except in stores or licensed taverns, he, she or they shall forfeit the liquors and upon conviction***shall pay a fine not exceeding ten dollars for the use of the company incorporated by this act."

PENNSYLVANIA STATE FAIRS, 1823-1827

In accordance with this new legislation, the Pennsylvania Agricultural Society was organized October 19, 1823 at the "Buck Tavern (still standing between Haverford and Bryn Mawr) on the Lancaster turnpike road" (Lincoln Highway) and a constitution was drafted. The editor of the *American Farmer* added a note to his report of the founding of this Society which read: "The union of the five counties in Pennsylvania to afford a suitable theatre whereon to display and give notoriety to improvements in husbandry*** (should) cheer the friends of agriculture."⁹

The first State fair was held October 22-24, 1823 near Paoli in Chester County.¹⁰ Apparently Montgomery County did not cooperate since the law designated that county as the site of the first fair in case the commissioners approved the tax for the county's appropriation to the State Society. The scope of this initial exhibition is indicated by the following departments; neat cattle, sheep, horses, oxen, swine, flax, wheat, Indian corn, barley, potatoes, mangel wurtzel, pumpkins or squash, butter and cheese, sugar (made in Pennsylvania) pot or pearl ash, cider, implements of husbandry and useful inventions, and household manufactures. (Note the omission of apples but inclusion of cider.)

The announcement of this fair indicated that "the trial of oxen, the examination of farming implements, the distribution of prizes, and the sale of animals shall take place on the last day of the exhibition." The fair included more than 100 cattle, 150 sheep (English, Tunisian, Spanish and Irish origin), and 30 horses varying "from the graceful figure of the fleet and high mettled courser of Arabia to the heavy frame of the patient and powerful draught horse of Pennsylvania."¹¹ The fair was so conducted as

⁹*American Farmer*, Vol. 4, p. 299.

¹⁰*Ibid*, Vol. 5, p. 130.

¹¹*Ibid*, Vol. 5, p. 313.

"to attract the sanction of female countenance" and the directors were gratified "by the presence of many ladies."

The second exhibition sponsored by the Pennsylvania Agricultural Society was held at Chester, October 15-16, 1824.¹² The third exhibition took place October 19-21, 1825, on the Bristol road in Philadelphia County.¹³ Livestock, "ploughing matches," and a sheep shearing contest were features of this Show. The State Exhibition was probably not held after 1827 when the county appropriation sections of the 1820 and 1823 acts were repealed, (Act of April 14, 1828, P.L. 483). The weakness in this initial set-up of a State fair was that the county commissioners were to levy the tax to finance the county's share of the cost, but the act was not mandatory upon the commissioners so that one by one the counties withdrew support and soon the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture was the only active organization interested in a State exhibition. The failure of the State fair in the 1820's so discouraged the active members of the Philadelphia Society that this great organization remained practically dormant for over a decade.

LOCAL FARM SHOWS BEFORE 1850

In June 1829, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society held its first "semi-annual Exhibition of fruits, flowers and plants" in Philadelphia.¹⁴ Exhibitions of various kinds have been sponsored by this Society throughout its long and notable history.

In November 1838, the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture renewed its effort to hold a farm exhibition. George Bright records the history of this effort as follows:

"At the annual meeting held on the 23rd of January, 1838, the Society was reorganized***. In November of the same year the first exhibition was held at Rising Sun Hotel on the Germantown Road three miles from the city (Philadelphia). It was attended with great success.***The only improved breed (of livestock) then recognized was the Durham Shorthorn.***To advance the cause of agriculture and to pay the premiums offered, application was made (in 1839) to the legislature for an appropriation of \$600 per annum and it was granted.***With this, premiums were paid and no charge of admission was made at the exhibition.***At this time (1839), the Society encouraged the growth of fine crops and offered liberal premiums for the best five acres of corn, potatoes, sugar beets and turnips.***At the exhibition of 1842, the trial of plows was the main feature of the year.***Also in 1842, the Jersey and Guernsey cattle were first exhibited and classified for the award of premiums under the name of Alderney." ¹⁵

The exhibitions of the Philadelphia Society were continued annually until 1855 at which time the "trotting course" was considered a very important feature.

¹²Ibid, Vol. 6, p. 265.

¹³Ibid, Vol. 7, p. 240.

¹⁴James Boyd, A History of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 1827-1927, p. 43.

¹⁵George Bright, *Historical Sketch of the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture*, Report of the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society, 1885, pp. 139-144.

The development of agricultural fairs and shows during the nineteenth century was greatly stimulated by three new centers of interest in farming activity. These were: (1) the breeding of purebred livestock; (2) the improvement of farm machinery; and (3) the propagation of new varieties of farm crops.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE FAIRS, 1851-1894

On May 15, 1850, The Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture addressed an open letter to the farmers of Pennsylvania, suggesting that a farmers' convention be held in Harrisburg on the third Tuesday of January, 1851, for the purpose of organizing a State Agricultural Society. One of the objectives mentioned in this letter was to "make Pittsburgh, Chambersburg, Harrisburg, York, Lancaster, Reading and Easton as famous in the annals of Agricultural Fairs and Cattle Shows in Pennsylvania as Rochester, Buffalo, Utica, Albany, etc., are in New York."¹⁶ (Many of these New York Shows were organized by Elkanah Watson whose inspiration came originally from the Philadelphia Cattle Show of 1809). The outcome of this Harrisburg meeting was the formation of the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society which was to meet annually on the third Wednesday of January in Harrisburg.

The executive committee of the Society was authorized by the Constitution to designate the time and place of the annual exhibition, regulate the expenditures, etc. The committee made plans immediately for a State Fair in Harrisburg. October 22-24, 1851 were the dates originally set for the Exhibition at a meeting of the Committee on February 27, 1851, just a month after the State Society was organized. Later, it was found that this date conflicted with the Maryland State Fair, so at a special meeting in Harrisburg, September 10, 1851, the difficulty was overcome by scheduling the Pennsylvania Fair for October 29-31. Committees were named to visit the State Fairs in New York and Maryland. The Committee on arrangement for the first Pennsylvania State Fair included A. O. Heister, George H. Bucher, Dr. Luther Reely, David Mumma, Jr., and Isaac G. McKinley. Stimulated by a membership of 2,000 and a \$2,000 appropriation from the General Assembly, the first Pennsylvania State Fair was a big success. Admission was charged and the receipts were \$4,593.29. The chief expenditures were \$221.71 for police; \$427.52 for hauling; \$333.00 for tent rental; \$865.25 for lumber, fence, etc.; and \$993.00 for premiums. The Committee reported:

"During the three days of the exhibition it is thought that more than twenty thousand persons were in attendance. The ground chosen by the committee of arrangement, upon which to hold the fair, was peculiar in its adaptation to the purpose, and was located

¹⁶Report of the Transactions of the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society, Vol. 1, p. 12.

about a mile above Harrisburg, on the eastern side of the Susquehanna, (probably only a few blocks from the present Pennsylvania Farm Show Building) embracing nearly fifteen acres, which was substantially enclosed by a fence ten feet high.

One side of the entrance was the office of the treasurer, and on the other that of the secretary. In the latter, all articles for exhibition were entered in books properly arranged and classified, and a card given to the exhibitor, with the number, name and description of the article, and owner or inventor. All articles for exhibition were hauled by the society to and from the railroad depot without charge to the exhibitor.

More than a hundred covered sheds were erected inside the enclosure, for horses and cattle, with many others put up for sheep, hogs, etc., and for holding hay and feed.

Large rings were constructed at a convenient distance from the stalls used for the exhibition of horses and cattle.

Long houses were neatly built and partitioned off for poultry, which were filled with almost every variety of the feathered domestics.

The 'mammoth tents'***used at the Rochester fair, were pitched here and there through the grounds, in which were exhibited the lighter articles of usefulness, specimens of the fine arts, the handiwork of the ladies, the luxuries of the farm, the mechanic arts and inventions, and improvements in endless variety.

The agricultural implements and the coarser articles of household arts were assigned extensive plots of ground in several parts of the enclosure, and were exhibited to great advantage. An adjoining field of ten acres was used for the plowing match, and twenty-one plows were entered and contested for the premiums."¹⁷

The Pennsylvania State Fair was patterned largely after a similar institution in New York State, the location of which was changed each year in order to interest a new group of people so that local societies and county fairs might be established. The Pennsylvania fair, usually scheduled for the latter part of September, was held in Lancaster in 1852, in Pittsburgh in 1853, in Philadelphia in 1854, Harrisburg 1855, Pittsburgh 1856, Philadelphia, 1857, Pittsburgh 1858, Philadelphia 1859, Wyoming 1860, Norristown 1863, Easton 1864, Williamsport 1865, Easton 1866, Pittsburgh, 1867, Harrisburg 1868-1869, Scranton 1870-1871, Erie 1872-1873, Easton 1874, Lancaster 1875, 1876 no fair because of Centennial at Philadelphia, Erie 1877-1878, Philadelphia 1879-1880, Pittsburgh 1881, 1883 no fair because permanent site in Philadelphia not ready, Philadelphia, 1884-1888, jointly with York Fair in 1889-1890, jointly with fair at Bethlehem in 1891, jointly with the fairs at Scranton and Lancaster in 1892, jointly with fair at Indiana in 1893, jointly at Erie 1894, jointly at Uniontown in 1895, and jointly at Johnstown in 1896-1897.¹⁸

As can be seen, State fairs were held in practically all of the leading cities in the Commonwealth. First, these events were the parent of the county fairs but near the end, the State Fair actually became a child of the county fairs. The perseverance necessary to maintain the State Fair as an annual event during the initial period of its development is indicated by the fact that the fairs in 1855, 1856, and 1857 were not financially successful even though the railroads encouraged them by transporting exhibits free. The fair was not held in 1861 due to the "unhappy and

¹⁷Ibid, p. 36.

¹⁸Pennsylvania State Agricultural Reports from 1851 to 1894.

deplorable condition of the country.”¹⁹ In 1862, the Fair was scheduled for Norristown for September 30-October 3, but was postponed indefinitely about two weeks before the time of its scheduled opening “on account of the threatened invasion of the State by the Southern army.”²⁰ After taking this sudden and drastic action, there was considerable apprehension on the part of the Executive Committee of the State Society for fear the local society might bring suit for breach of contract.

The State Fair held under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Society in 1858 at Pittsburgh, was one of the most successful up to that time so that out of the proceeds a donation of \$3,767.37 (20 per cent of the net proceed) was made to the support of the Farmers’ High School, which was referred to as “the Child of the Society”²¹ and which later developed into the Pennsylvania State College.

By 1882, the original purpose (that of establishing local county societies in all parts of the State) of holding the fair in different cities had been accomplished and it was decided to develop a permanent location for the institution. A 30-acre tract of land was leased for ten years in Philadelphia. Almost \$80,000 was expended for buildings and other improvements and very successful fairs, each covering a two-week period, were held annually. More than \$40,000 in premiums were offered at the first show. The fair continued to be held in Philadelphia until 1888 when, because of the economic conditions of the country, the institution went bankrupt and the State refused to appropriate money to balance the accounts. This was often referred to as “the State Fair scandal” and remained a popular subject of comment for years. After 1888, the State fair was never an outstanding factor in the agricultural development of Pennsylvania.

STATE ORGANIZATIONS SPONSOR EXHIBITS

It is a noteworthy historical fact that the State fair in Pennsylvania never replaced the exhibits held in connection with meetings of farm organizations. The Philadelphia Society for the Promotion of Agriculture continued to hold exhibitions for some time after the first State fair in 1851. The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (not to be confused with the State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania which is discussed in the next paragraph) has always held exhibitions in Philadelphia. In 1884 when

¹⁹Transactions of the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society, Vol. 6, p. 55.

²⁰Ibid, p. 63.

²¹Transactions of the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society, Vol. 5, p. 68-72.

the State Fair was held there, the Horticultural Society arranged its autumnal exhibition in connection with the Fair.²²

Exhibits of fruit always have been a prominent feature of the program of the State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania. Organized in 1859, as "The Fruit Growers' Society of Eastern Pennsylvania," the by-laws of the organization provided that the annual meeting should be held in February. The time of meeting was changed in 1863 to September in order to encourage a larger exhibit of fruit. September meetings and exhibits were held in 1863 and 1864, but were so unsuccessful that in 1865 the Society met in January.²³ The revised by-laws provided: "The annual meeting of the society shall be held on the third Wednesday of January of each year***at which time an exhibition and discussion of fruits shall take place***." ²⁴ The name of the Society was changed to "The State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania" in 1881 and the policy of holding annual meetings and exhibits each January at different points in the State was continued.

The Pennsylvania State Dairymen's Association, organized in 1874, also held exhibits of machinery and displayed samples of dairy products at its annual meetings which were held on the last Wednesday of the year. At the annual meeting in Meadville, December 29-30, 1875, there were on display a "swinging cattle stanchion," "a self-heating cheese vat," "a butter worker whereby the butter can be washed, weighed, and worked without being removed from the worker," and "a novel plan by which he (the milk factory operator) can work up the samples of a patron's milk separately and thereby practically test its comparable quality."²⁵ The constitution of the Association was amended in January 1882 to eliminate a specified time for holding the annual meeting and exhibit and for many years after that the event was scheduled during the last half of January or the first week of February, usually in Meadville. The activities of the organization which were confined largely to northwestern Pennsylvania, declined greatly during the early nineties, so that in 1898, a new association of dairymen appears due to the effort of the National Dairy Union in getting a representative Statewide unit of Pennsylvania dairymen for the nationwide organization. This new group was called the "Pennsylvania Dairy Union" and held its first meeting at Williamsport, March 30, 1898.

²²James Boyd, *A History of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 1827-1927*, p. 239.

²³S. W. Fletcher, *History of the State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania*, Pennsylvania State Horticultural Association News, March, 1934, Vol. 11, 1:11-15.

²⁴Pennsylvania Agricultural Society Report, Vol. II; Report of Pennsylvania Fruit Growers' Society, p. 5.

²⁵Pennsylvania Agricultural Society Report, Vol. XI, pp 315-317.

STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

A development which had much bearing upon the fact that the first Pennsylvania Farm Show was held in January, goes back to the creation of the State Board of Agriculture in 1876, (Act of May 8, 1876, P.L. 129). In the formation of this board which was fashioned after a similar board in Massachusetts,²⁶ January was the month designed for its annual reorganization. The Act establishing the board, became effective on the fourth Wednesday of January in 1877 and one-third of the appointed members were to retire from office on the fourth Wednesday of January each year. The Act also provided that the Board should meet at least once each year at the State Capitol. The Board continued to hold its annual meeting during the week of the fourth Wednesday of January, until it was replaced by the reorganized State Department of Agriculture in 1919.

DEVELOPMENTS FROM 1900 TO 1917

Out of statewide agricultural activities in Pennsylvania from 1900 to 1917 was gradually molded the idea of an annual State-wide farm products Show. The following chronological review is, therefore, given to show this interesting evolution.

WINTER OF 1899-1900

Livestock Breeders' Organize)

The Pennsylvania Livestock Breeders' Association was organized at a meeting held January 25-26, 1900 in Pittsburgh after the need for the organization had been discussed at length in the columns of the "National Stockman and Farmer."²⁷ Representatives of twenty-four breeds of livestock including some poultrymen, were present. In this initial meeting, special attention was given "to the necessity of a State Fair in which respect Pennsylvania is behind all other States." The first officers of the organization were: president, John I. Gordon, Mercer; 1st vice president, Henry Palmer, Avondale; 2nd vice president, M. P. Shoemaker, Greensburg; secretary, E. S. Bayard, Pittsburgh; treasurer, J. F. Lantz, Altoona. The annual meeting was set for the second week in December beginning on Wednesday. An executive committee was named which included breeders of horses, cattle, sheep, swine and poultry. As stated in the constitution, the purpose of the organization was educational, especially to increase interest in

²⁶Report of Pennsylvania State Board of Agriculture, 1877-79, p. 244.

²⁷National Stockman and Farmer, February 1, 1900, 23:1224.

improved livestock. The association started to build sentiment immediately for a State fair.

The State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania met in Pittsburgh, January 16-17, 1900 and had an exhibit. The by-laws of the organization were amended so that the annual meeting was to be held on the Tuesday before the third Wednesday of January.²⁸

The Pennsylvania State Poultry Association adopted a by-law which provided that "the annual meeting shall be held in the city of Harrisburg on the first Tuesday preceding the fourth Wednesday in January each year."²⁹

The Pennsylvania Dairy Union held its second annual meeting in West Chester, December 5-6, 1899 and arranged an exhibit which proved very successful. The display consisted of creamery tub butter, dairy tub butter, creamery print butter, dairy print butter and cheese.

The State Board of Agriculture met in Harrisburg, January 24-25, 1900. With the exception of the poultry association and the State Board of Agriculture, it will be noted that all the meetings and exhibits were held in different weeks and at several different points in the State.

WINTER OF 1900-1901

(Renew Effort for State Fair)

The Pennsylvania Livestock Breeders' Association met in Harrisburg, December 12-13 and at this meeting the plan was advanced for amending the old State Fair Law, to take the control of the State Fair out of the jurisdiction of the State Agricultural Society and place the management under the control "of all organizations representing the government, of all organizations representing livestock, dairying, education and industrial interest of the State." A bill was drafted accordingly.³⁰

The attitude of the urban press toward the State Fair at this time is reflected by an editorial in the Philadelphia Press which read in part "The Pennsylvania Livestock Breeders' Association is anxious to hold a big State Fair devoted to cattle exhibits with the absence of a mid-way. If the livestock breeders will take a tip from Allentown, Bethlehem and Lancaster, they will hold a State fair and assure its overwhelming success by abandoning the livestock exhibit and sticking to the mid-way exclusively."³¹

²⁸Annual Report, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (1900) Part II, p. 98.

²⁹Ibid, p. 93.

³⁰National Stockman and Farmer, December 20, 1900, p. 16.

³¹Ibid, December, 27, 1900, 24:969.

The State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania held its annual meeting and exhibit in Harrisburg, January 21-22, 1901. The Pennsylvania Dairy Union met at Corry in December, 1900 and the State Board of Agriculture convened in Harrisburg, January 23-24, 1901. An editorial in the "National Stockman and Farmer" of January 10, 1901 suggested that Pennsylvania organizations should follow the Ohio plan of holding meetings at one time and place and said that the Dairy Union and the Live-stock Breeders should meet together.³² This was one of the first suggestions of holding simultaneous meetings and it is significant that it was made sixteen years before the goal was finally accomplished.

WINTER OF 1901-1902

(All Meetings Widely Scattered)

The third annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Livestock Breeders' Association was held in Pittsburgh, December 18-19, 1901. At this meeting a committee was appointed to confer with representatives of the State Dairy Union which met during the winter at York, to arrange a joint meeting the next year. The committee was also instructed to invite all other livestock organizations and kindred organizations of the State to meet at the same time and place.³³

During this winter, the State Board of Agriculture met in Harrisburg, January 22-23, 1902; the State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania in Bloomsburg, January 14-15, 1902; and the Pennsylvania Dairy Union in York during the first week in December. The Horticultural Association had its usual exhibits of fruit and the Dairy Union had an exhibit of butter at the time of their respective meetings.

In this particular winter, we find the greatest possible extreme—all the meetings being held at different places and at different times during a two-month period.

WINTER OF 1902-1903

(First Experiment with Joint Conventions)

The suggestion of the Livestock Breeders made the previous year appealed to the dairymen, so the Pennsylvania Livestock Breeders' Association and the Pennsylvania Dairy Union held meetings in Harrisburg, December 10-11, 1902 and many of their sessions were conducted jointly. At this meeting the constitution of the Livestock Breeders' Association was amended so that the

³²Ibid, January 10, 1901, 24:1033.

³³Ibid, December 26, 1901; 25:996.

executive committee could determine the place and time of the annual meeting. The second week of December had proven an unfavorable time "owing to conflict with (the) State Grange meeting and because (the) International Livestock Exposition the preceding week makes it difficult for members to be away from home two weeks in succession."³⁴ The State Board of Agriculture met in Harrisburg, January 28-29. The State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania also met in Harrisburg, but on January 21-22. In this particular winter we have the unusual situation of all the agricultural meetings being held in Harrisburg, but at three different times. It is probable that on two of these occasions, there were exhibits of farm products.

WINTER OF 1903-1904

(State Fair Idea Up Again)

The sixth annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Dairy Union was held in Lock Haven, December 2-3, 1903, probably with an exhibit. The Pennsylvania Livestock Breeders' convened in Pittsburgh, February 10-11, 1904 and at this meeting the State Fair was discussed. It was decided to put a bill before the General Assembly to clear up all obstacles since the old State Agriculture Society was not in condition to give the State an up-to-date fair.³⁵

The State Board of Agriculture convened in Harrisburg, January 27-28, 1904 and the State Horticultural Association in Lancaster, January 19-20, 1904. The Pennsylvania State Nurserymen's Association was organized January 21, 1904 in Lancaster.³⁶ The Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association was organized at Williamsport, April 12, 1904, but no mention was made in the constitution or by-laws of an annual exhibit of apiary products. The Association did not take an active part in State Farm Show effort until 1920.³⁷

WINTER OF 1904-1905

(Organizations Pick Harrisburg for Meetings)

The Pennsylvania Dairy Union met November 30-December 1, 1904 in Harrisburg, and probably had an exhibit. The State Horticultural Association convened in Harrisburg, January 17-18, 1905 with an exhibit. The State Board of Agriculture held its regular annual meeting in Harrisburg, January 24-25, 1905 and the Pennsylvania Livestock Breeders' Association convened in Harris-

³⁴Ibid, December 18, 1902; 26:1064.

³⁵Ibid, February 18, 1904; 27:1512.

³⁶Pennsylvania State Agricultural Report (1903), p. 190.

³⁷*First Annual Report of the State Beekeepers Association of Pennsylvania*, Bulletin 148, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, p. 5.

burg on Wednesday and Thursday, January 25-26, 1905. There was no exhibit arranged by the livestock breeders. The State Fair bill which provided for a commission representing farm organizations, the State Board of Agriculture, the State Department of Agriculture and other agencies, was reported ready for submitting to the General Assembly.

The situation in the winter of 1904-1905 was very similar to that of 1902-1903 in that the agricultural meetings were arranged for Harrisburg, but widely scattered through the winter. This was the first winter in which the Pennsylvania Livestock Breeders' Association met in Harrisburg in January. The meeting was definitely planned for the same week as that of the State Board of Agriculture, probably to secure joint action on the State Fair Bill.³⁸

WINTER OF 1905-1906

(January Becomes Popular Month for Meetings)

The Pennsylvania Livestock Breeders' Association and the Pennsylvania Dairy Union held a joint meeting in Pittsburgh, January 17-18, 1906. This was the first time the Dairy Union convened in mid-January. At this meeting, a committee reported on an attempt to get a State Fair under way in Pennsylvania, and stated that Governor Pennypacker had vetoed a bill providing for the Fair because he needed the money for State Hospitals.³⁹

The State Horticultural Association met in Gettysburg, January 17-18, 1906 and the State Board of Agriculture convened in Harrisburg, January 24-25, 1906. Secretary of Agriculture Critchfield stated in the printed program of the State Board of Agriculture meeting that "provisions will be made for a display of samples of fruit products brought to the meeting for examination and identification." This was the first indication of a display of farm products in connection with the regular meeting of the State Board.

WINTER OF 1906-1907

(First Statewide Show in Harrisburg)

The State Board of Agriculture, the Pennsylvania Livestock Breeders' Association and the Pennsylvania Dairy Union met in Harrisburg, January 22-25, 1907. A joint meeting of all three organizations was held Wednesday evening, January 23, and was addressed by the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture of the United States. Other well-known speakers of the week were Dr. Cyril

³⁸National Stockman and Farmer, February 2, 1905, 28:1516.

³⁹Report of Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, (1905) p. 769; also National Stockman and Farmer, January 25, 1906, 29:1502.

Hopkins, a soil authority of Illinois; Dr. G. I. Christie, then of the Indiana Experiment Station, now President of Ontario Agricultural College, Canada; Joe E. Wing, the alfalfa "evangelist" of Ohio; Professor Thomas M. Hunt, of the Pennsylvania State College, and Governor Edwin S. Stuart.

The first Statewide Farm Products Show (not on annual basis however) was held in Harrisburg in connection with these meetings. The display was arranged in the old executive building.⁴⁰ There were exhibits of the alfalfa and all entries except one came from western Pennsylvania. The Dairy Union offered prizes for milk, cream and butter while the Livestock Breeders' Association provided a premium list for corn. The records indicate a small show of milk, a fair show of creamery butter, and a big show of corn including 125 ten-ear exhibits. E. S. Bayard of Pittsburgh was in charge of the corn show and H. E. Van Norman of Pennsylvania State College was in charge of dairy products. A milking machine was demonstrated and the dairy supply and equipment manufacturers made exhibits. On the last day of the Show, E. S. Bayard auctioned the exhibits in order to pay the premiums. The first prize ear of corn sold for \$25. This was one of Bayard's first experiences as an auctioneer and when he began the sale, he explained that he was not an auctioneer but would do the best he could. After the exhibits had been sold, an elderly farmer whose corn probably sold for less than other entries, came forward and said in a chilly tone, "Bayard, you told the truth. You said you hain't an auctioneer and by Heck you ain't."

The State Horticultural Association convened for its regular annual meeting and exhibit in Harrisburg during the week preceding that of the meetings of other organizations. A display of fruit was selected from the exhibits at the annual meeting and shown at the joint show the next week. Chester J. Tyson of Flora Dale was in charge of this exhibit which marked the first participation of the Horticultural group in a Statewide farm products Show. From that date, Mr. Tyson took part in all fruit shows and worked constantly for a joint annual show until finally accomplished in 1917.

WINTER OF 1907-1908

(Biennial Harrisburg Show Proposed)

During the winter of 1907-1908, the State Horticultural Association convened in Lancaster, January 14-15 with an exhibit. The Pennsylvania Dairy Union met in Wilkes-Barre, January 14-16 and arranged a display of dairy machinery including ex-

⁴⁰National Stockman and Farmer, Jan. 31, 1907; 30:1072.

hibits of dairy and creamery butter and milk. The State Board of Agriculture met in Harrisburg, January 22-23 with no other meetings during the same week. The Board appointed a committee "to confer with all other agricultural bodies in the State with the aim of planning all annual meetings next winter within the same week and at Harrisburg where the legislature will be in session."⁴¹

The Pennsylvania Livestock Breeders' Association convened in Pittsburgh February 5-6, 1908 and staged its second annual corn Show. The season of 1907 was a poor corn year so that the exhibit was not as large as that of preceding winter at Harrisburg. The corn was sold at auction as the previous year in order to pay the premiums. The best ear brought \$5 and the grand champion ten-ear entry sold for \$12. This Pittsburgh meeting of the livestock breeders was recorded as the most successful in its history.

WINTER OF 1908-1909

(Second Biennial Harrisburg Show)

The efforts of the State Board to get other conventions in Harrisburg, at the time of its regular annual meeting in January were successful. Joint meetings of the Pennsylvania Livestock Breeders' Association, the Pennsylvania Dairy Union and the State Board of Agriculture were arranged for January 26-28, 1909. The Chestnut Street Auditorium and the Chestnut Street Hall were engaged for these meetings and exhibits. The exhibits were referred to as "A Regular Winter Fair." Over two thousand ears of corn were entered. The dairy exhibits included creamery and dairy butter, certified milk and dairy milk. The Pennsylvania State College arranged an educational exhibit. Joint meetings of all the associations were held Wednesday evening and all day Thursday. As usual the corn was sold on Thursday, the final day of the Show. The champion ear was auctioned off by Professor C. W. Burkett "after a stirring speech on seed corn." The ear sold for \$15, while the ten-ear champion entry sold for \$20.⁴²

In announcing these 1909 meetings and the Show at Harrisburg, an editorial in the "National Stockman and Farmer" of January 21, 1909 carried the following significant statement:

"Next week's meetings at Harrisburg are especially important to the future of agriculture. The movement toward better things ***should not be allowed to lag.***One way to do this is to go to Harrisburg and show those who legislate what interest agriculturists have in these things (agricultural institutions now in

⁴¹Ibid, Feb. 8, 1908; 31:1093.

⁴²Ibid, Feb. 4, 1909; 32:1070.

existence and in prospect) and impress upon them the necessity of continuing the work which means so much to producers and consumers of agricultural products. *A few progressive men have for years worked, individually and through organizations, for these things. They have done this year after year at their own expense, and their total contribution of time and money has been no small one.* If every farmer, breeder, and dairyman in the State would do likewise, there would be not the slightest doubt of the outcome."

The State Horticultural Association held its annual meeting and exhibit in Harrisburg on January 19-20, the week preceding that of other meetings.

WINTER OF 1909-1910

(Livestock Added as Show Feature)

The State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania arranged its annual meeting and exhibit at Tunkhannock, January 11-12, with apparently a very successful display of fruit.

The State Board of Agriculture convened January 26-27, 1910 at the Capitol in Harrisburg. There were no other meetings of farm organizations held simultaneously in the Capital City. The State Board encountered difficulty in arranging an exhibit of farm products in connection with its meeting judging from the following remarks printed in the 1910 program. "Owing to a rule adopted by the Public Grounds and Buildings Commission forbidding exhibits of any kind in the Capitol Building, we shall be unable to make the usual arrangements for exhibits of fruits and vegetables. Persons bringing samples of fruits or vegetables for identification can have them taken care of in the rooms of the Department of Agriculture where they can be examined by the proper committee."

The Pennsylvania Livestock Breeders' Association and the Pennsylvania Dairy Union held a joint meeting and exhibit at the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, February 2-4, 1910.⁴³ Horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry, corn, apples, milk and butter were exhibited. The different types of horses were demonstrated and in order to show the kind of horses required for fire use, "the Philadelphia Fire Department sent out its heaviest truck and steamer and made a few runs for the benefit of the crowd."

The milk exhibit was probably the best ever held in Pennsylvania up to that time. One section of the milk exhibit was very

⁴³Ibid, February 10, 1910, 33:1216.

unique in that the entries were taken from cans of whole milk coming from producers who were shipping to Philadelphia. Six producers were selected and their entries were taken from cans on the city platform. The producers had been told the samples would be taken for the Show. The bacteria count of the entries varied from 3,000 to 20,000. The interesting feature is that samples of milk taken from cans of the same six producers had been taken ten days previously without the knowledge of the producers. The idea was to see what difference it made in the quality of the milk when the producers knew their product was to be taken for a special exhibit. The average bacteria count of the samples taken unknown to the producers ten days previous to the Show was about double that of the samples taken with the knowledge of the producers at the time of the Show. The State Horticultural Association through the efforts of Tyson Brothers arranged a fruit show. This was the second fruit show to be held in connection with the corn and dairy products display sponsored by the Livestock Breeders' Association and Dairy Union. The Pennsylvania State College and the State Department of Agriculture had educational exhibits and specialists from both institutions took a prominent part in the program. A prime and a common steer were used for a demonstration on foot and were then slaughtered to show the quality of the different cuts of meat. There were so many things going on at one time that this Show was referred to as resembling "a three-ring circus." At the close of the exhibition the corn was sold, the grand champion exhibit bringing \$17 and the champion ear \$7.50. It is reported that the city folks outbid the corn growers for the prize lots.

WINTER OF 1910-1911

(Third Biennial Harrisburg Show)

The State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania joined with the State Board of Agriculture, the Pennsylvania Livestock Breeders' Association and the Pennsylvania Dairy Union in a joint convention in Harrisburg, January 24-26, 1911. This was the first time the fruit growers joined with other organizations in a Harrisburg meeting. The by-laws of the Horticultural Association had been changed to read: "The annual meeting of the Association shall be held during the month of January in each year at such time and place as the executive committee shall determine."⁴⁴ It will be recalled that previous to this time, the by-laws specified that the meeting of the Association was to be held on the Tuesday before the third Wednesday of January,

⁴⁴Report of State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania, (1911) p. 17.

which meant that its meeting could not be held during the same week as that of the State Board of Agriculture. These Harrisburg meetings were well attended and the agitation for a State Fair was renewed. The exhibits were arranged in the Johnston Building and part of the Chestnut Street Market House. Four carloads of livestock including horses, cattle, sheep and swine were exhibited. Two steers—a prime one and a common one—were displayed and later killed for a meat demonstration. Other exhibits included apples, pears, nuts, corn, creamery butter, market milk, market cream and certified milk. Educational exhibits were sponsored by the Pennsylvania State College and the State Department of Agriculture. A published review of the conventions held during the week, stress the fact that the “State Fair was the leading topic of discussion at all meetings.”⁴⁵

WINTER OF 1911-1912

(The Great Pittsburgh Show)

The Pennsylvania Livestock Breeders' Association, the Pennsylvania Dairy Union and the State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania cooperated in holding their annual conventions and a mid-winter fair in Duquesne Gardens, Pittsburgh, January 15-19, 1912.⁴⁶ This exposition was referred to as the greatest agricultural Show in the history of the State. The exhibition consisted of a vast show of apples in addition to displays of milk, cream, pears, and nuts. Manufacturers exhibited supplies and equipment. In the riding academy were shown 100 cattle, 200 sheep, 100 hogs and 35 horses. A work horse show was an evening feature. The event was described as “purely an educational institution.” It was “clean from start to finish without a fakir on the ground and all land boomers excluded.” An official of the Livestock Breeders' Association made the assertion that the Show “should be continued until the State has a State Fair.” A blizzard and twelve-below-zero weather cut the attendance at the Show and it was not a financial success. As a result, many of the individual sponsors paid out of their own personal accounts bills amounting to hundreds of dollars. Heroic effort was necessary to keep the exhibits from freezing. The heating system of the exposition building could not maintain a satisfactory room temperature in the face of sub-zero weather so that it was necessary to pipe gas into the building and use gas heaters as a last resort to save the attractive displays of fruit. The Pittsburgh newspapers barely mentioned the Exposition and were severely criticized for their

⁴⁵National Stockman and Farmer, Feb. 2, 1911; 34:1226.

⁴⁶Ibid, January 25, 1912 ;35:1152.

lack of interest. There were educational exhibits at the Show arranged by the Pennsylvania State College and the State Department of Agriculture. Demonstrations were conducted on meat cutting and poultry dressing.

The State Board of Agriculture met as usual in Harrisburg, January 24-25, 1912 without an exhibit or other events scheduled.

WINTER OF 1912-1913

(Fourth Biennial Harrisburg Show)

The Pennsylvania Livestock Breeders' Association, the Pennsylvania Dairy Union, the State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania, the State Board of Agriculture and the State Veterinary Medical Association sponsored an agricultural program with an exhibit in Harrisburg, January 21-23, 1913.⁴⁷ Joint meetings of the organizations were held Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. On Wednesday evening the program was devoted entirely to the proposal of having a State Fair in Pennsylvania. W. E. Skinner, Secretary of the National Dairy Show, addressed the meeting on the subject "Why Pennsylvania Should Have a State Fair" and the Honorable A. P. Sandles, Ohio Secretary of Agriculture, talked on "The Benefits of the State Fair." Exhibits of fruit, corn and dairy products were arranged and a meat cutting demonstration was directed by Professor W. H. Tomhave of the Pennsylvania State College. Two steers purchased at Pittsburgh were used for the demonstration. A report indicates that Professor Tomhave held an audience for two hours "while carving the carcasses in a masterly fashion." The corn show was the best ever held up to that time. The apple exhibit was a success even though the show was not announced until much of the fruit had been marketed. The Pennsylvania State College and the Division of Economic Zoology of the State Department of Agriculture sponsored educational exhibits. The Show was held at 11 North Market Square and the meetings in Chestnut Street Hall. The fruit show was directed by C. J. Tyson, the corn show by E. S. Bayard, the dairy products exhibit by H. E. Van Norman and the commercial displays by S. F. Barber. The commercial exhibitors paid for space which helped meet the expenses of the Show.

An attempt was made in the annual meeting of the Horticultural Association in 1913 to remove the words "during the month of January" from that section of the constitution relating to the annual meeting. There was some sentiment for holding the meeting in December. Mr. Engle, one of the officials expressed appar-

⁴⁷Ibid, issue of last week of January, 1913.

ently the majority sentiment of the membership when, during the discussion of the motion pertaining to change in the meeting date, he said "that question (of changing the meeting) was often discussed and**we always had the sentiment in favor of holding it in January. It is the time of the year when people are more at leisure and we are assured of better meetings. Earlier in the season, we haven't our fruit gathered in and in December we cannot expect to have the attendance that we have in January."⁴⁸

WINTER OF 1913-1914

(The Joint Show at York)

The Pennsylvania Livestock Breeders' Association, the Pennsylvania Dairy Union and the State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania convened at York January 20-22, 1914.⁴⁹ The American Berkshire Congress was held there the same week. The Pennsylvania Berkshire Breeders' Association and the Pennsylvania Holstein Breeders' Association were organized at that time. A corn and fruit show was arranged, but there is no record of a display of dairy products. A published review of the show and exhibits stressed the point that "sentiment for a State Fair is growing despite the defeats of recent years."

The State Board of Agriculture met in Harrisburg January 28-30, but there is no indication of an exhibit being arranged in connection with the meeting.

WINTER OF 1914-1915

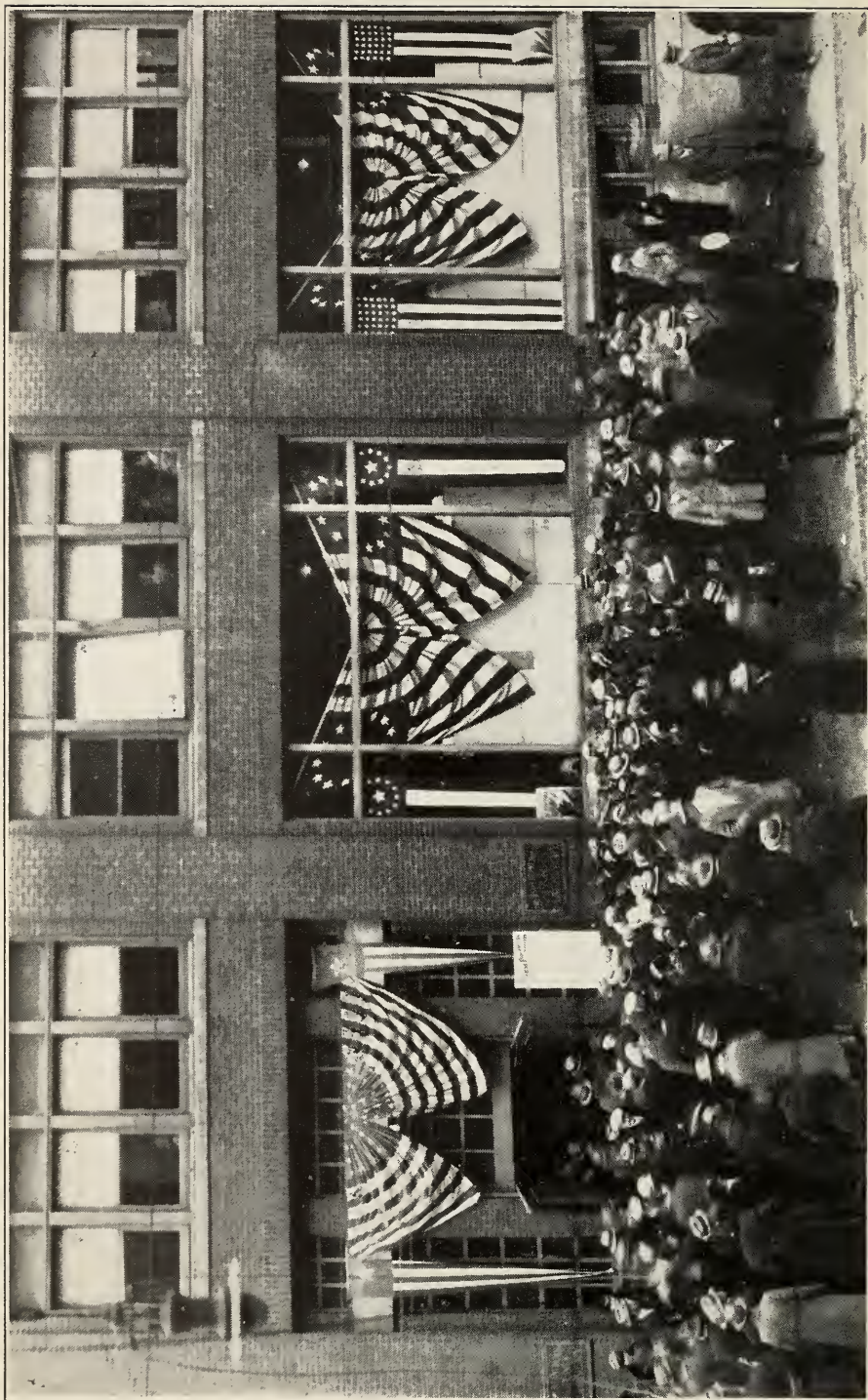
(Joint Meetings in Harrisburg)

The program of the State Board of Agriculture meeting for January 26-28, 1915 carried the following remarks: "Nineteen hundred fifteen being a legislative year, the usual invitation has been extended to State Agricultural Associations to meet with us." As a result of this invitation, the Pennsylvania Livestock Breeders' Association, the Pennsylvania Dairy Union, the Pennsylvania State Poultry Society, the Pennsylvania Poultry Breeders' Association, and the Pennsylvania Holstein-Friesian Association scheduled meetings in Harrisburg for the week of January 26-28. Joint meetings of all the organizations were held Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. There was apparently no exhibit of agricultural products.⁵⁰ However, a meat-cutting demonstration was scheduled. The growing desire for a Statewide Farm Show, however, is revealed in the report of the Department of Agriculture for 1915

⁴⁸Proceedings of the State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania (1913) p. 54.

⁴⁹National Stockman and Farmer, Jan. 31, 1914, 37:1152.

⁵⁰Ibid, Feb. 6, 1915, 38:1134.



Overflow Crowd in Front of Original Farm Show Building

which carried the following statement: "There appears to be a growing necessity in Pennsylvania for the holding of a State Agricultural Fair to be held under State control in which the various farm organizations of the State and County Agricultural Societies should have a fair representation."⁵¹

The State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania held its annual convention in Wilkes-Barre in January, 1915. An apple show was planned in connection with this meeting, but the display was not extensive due to the fact that cash prizes were not offered.

WINTER OF 1915-1916

(Last Meetings Outside of Harrisburg)

The State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania and the Vegetable Growers' Association met in Reading January, 18-20, 1916. This was the last meeting of these groups outside of Harrisburg. An exhibit of fruit was planned but it was not a big success. The Pennsylvania Livestock Breeders' Association and the Pennsylvania Dairy Union met in Pittsburgh February 23-24, 1916. The most important business at the joint meeting of these organizations was a discussion of how the two organizations were to survive. It was decided to merge the two groups into the "Pennsylvania Breeders' and Dairymen's Association." The new association assumed the debts of the two organizations and then proceed to raise a fund to pay off these obligations. There were no exhibits of corn and dairy products in connection with this meeting. The sheep breeders were organized at this time and a small exhibit of wool was featured. All groups held a joint meeting Wednesday evening. The program included many educational talks by College men.⁵²

The State Board of Agriculture held its meeting independently in Harrisburg, January 26-27, 1916.

THE FIRST ANNUAL STATE SHOW

One thousand nine-hundred seventeen being a legislative year, plans were made for the regular annual session of the State Board of Agriculture and for meetings of the Pennsylvania Breeders' and Dairymen's Association, the State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania State Veterinary Medical Association, and the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers' Association, in Harrisburg, January 23-25, which was the week of the fourth Wednesday of the month.

⁵¹Report of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, (1915) p. 43.

⁵²National Stockman and Farmer, March 4, 1916, 39:1338.

Plans for a farm products show in connection with these conventions were first discussed at a conference in Lancaster in August 1916.⁵³ Those present at the conference were: Charles E. Patton, Secretary of Agriculture; C. E. Carothers, deputy Secretary of Agriculture; Chester J. Tyson, representing the State Horticultural Association; Henry Klugh, Chief Clerk of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, E. S. Bayard, president of the Pennsylvania Breeders' and Dairymen's Association and editor of the "National Stockman and Farmer;" and E. K. Hibshman, secretary of the Pennsylvania Breeders' and Dairymen's Association, and assistant director of the agricultural extension division, Pennsylvania State College. It was the decision of this conference that a display of corn, fruit, vegetables, dairy products and wool should be arranged.

On Tuesday morning January 23, 1917, a workman nailed above the front door of a large implement building on the main street in Harrisburg an inconspicuous sign which read: "Pennsylvania Corn, Fruit, Vegetable, Dairy Products, and Wool Show. Admission Free." Inside, implement dealers, fruit men, corn growers, dairymen, vegetable growers, employes of the Pennsylvania State College, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, the Department of Public Instruction represented by the vocational schools, and farm leaders, were hustling about, placing finishing touches on a combined display of farm products and farm implements, which was to go down in history as the first annual State Farm Products Show in Pennsylvania.

Two floors of the large building (then known as the Emerson-Brantingham building and now the State Publications Building, 10th and Market Streets) were used in connection with this Show. The first floor was known as "Machinery Hall" and occupying the entire space were all kinds of heavy machinery including a number of different makes of tractors which were reported as taking the special notice of farmers at that time. There were 44 commercial exhibitors in the Show and their exhibits included all kinds of dairy, orchard and fruit growing implements and materials.

The second floor of the building contained the entries of farm products and many commercial displays. Some idea of the arrangement of these exhibits as viewed by a newspaper reporter, follows:

"The second floor of the Emerson-Brantingham building is the center of much interest for the tiller of the soil. At the entrance is arranged an interesting exhibit of the State Department of Agriculture—the bureau of zoology. Through the center of the room is a table, occupying the entire length of the hall and on this is the corn display. Various grades have been classified and tagged with the name of the brand and the county in which it was grown. One

⁵³Letter to the author from E. K. Hibshman, Executive Secretary, Penn State Alumni Association, State College, Pa.

⁵⁴National Stockman and Farmer, Feb. 3, 1917, 40:1172.

of the most attractive exhibits is the fruit show.***Aside from the farm product exhibits, there is also an interesting demonstration of the work being done in the vocational schools.***The work of the school of agriculture of State College is also shown in a large exhibit that occupies a space in the north end of the room."⁵⁵

E. S. Bayard of Pittsburgh was chairman of the committee which arranged the Show. H. E. Klugh of the State Department of Agriculture was manager. Cash prizes offered were as follows: Corn \$261; apples \$300; wool \$110; vegetables \$55, and dairy products \$704. The premium list for the corn show provided separate classes for the following varieties: Yellow Dent, White Capped yellow Dent, White Dent, Ninety Day Type, Southeastern Type and Flint. Classes were also provided for the best ten ears grown by a boy or girl under 18 years of age, July 1, 1916. A county exhibit to consist of ten 10-ear samples were arranged in addition to a 10-ear and single ear championship.

The fruit exhibit had 12 classes for apple growers with "a grand county association prize." The classes were made up of plate, box and barrel displays. Cash prizes were also offered for displays of pears; quinces; English and black walnuts; Native, European and Japanese chestnuts, and shellbarks, each exhibit of nuts to consist of 20 specimens. A total of 4,800 square feet were allocated for the fruit show.

The classification in the vegetable premium list provided for beets, parsnips, turnips, carrots, cabbage, celery, onions, horseradish roots, squash, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes of the following varieties: Irish Cobbler, Green Mountain or "State of Maine" potatoes, Rural New Yorker No. 2, Carmen No. 3, and other varieties not listed; lettuce, radishes, rhubarb, cauliflower, tomatoes, mushrooms, chicory, and best display of miscellaneous vegetables.

The milk and butter show had the following classes: Creamery butter, dairy butter, certified milk, and market milk.

Corn and potato judging contests were conducted by the boys from the vocational schools of which there were thirty-seven in the State at that time. Thirty of these schools had judging teams at the Show. The contests were conducted by Prof. W. H. Darst of State College. This was the beginning of the junior activities which have since become so vital a part of the State Show.

The judges for the Show were as follows: Apples and other fruits, Professor V. H. Davis, Columbus, Ohio; wool, A. C. Bigelow, Philadelphia, and F. D. Gardner, State College; milk, L. H. Cook, Washington, D. C.; and Dr. C. B. Cochran, West Chester; butter, J. C. Joslin, Grove City; potatoes, W. H. Darst, State College; and vegetables, J. C. Bechtel, State College.

⁵⁵The Patriot (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania) January 23, 1917.

The Show was financed by an \$800 appropriation from the State Department of Agriculture and by the sale of space to commercial exhibitors.

The organizations which cooperated and held meetings during the week included the State Board of Agriculture, the Pennsylvania Breeders' and Dairymen's Association, the State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association, and the State Vegetable Growers' Association. Each of these organizations held two-day meetings starting either Tuesday or Wednesday morning. On Tuesday and Wednesday evening, joint sessions of all the organizations were arranged. At these joint meetings, timely educational topics having broad application to agriculture, were discussed by nationally-known authorities. The Sheep Breeders' Association and the Holstein Breeders' Association held business meetings during the week. The Pennsylvania Nurserymen's Association held a business meeting Thursday afternoon but an announcement of the meeting was not carried in the program of events for the week.

Even though the acute shortage of labor kept many farmers at home, the Show and agricultural meetings in 1917 were very successful and before the week closed, definite steps were taken to make the Show and meetings an annual event. In the *Philadelphia Inquirer* under a Harrisburg date line of January 26, 1917, the following statement can be found: "A movement to establish the mid-winter corn, apple, wool and dairy show here this week during the meeting of the allied organizations, as *an annual affair* was taken today by committees which discussed the proposition with State officials."

FARM SHOW IN WAR TIME

Holding a farm products show *annually* in Harrisburg which meant a show in years when the General Assembly was not in session, provided a departure which confronted the farm leaders of the State. The idea met a real test during the latter part of 1917 because of the World War. In fact, on December 4, 1917, an announcement was made stating the Show could not be held; the explanation was given that "uncertainty of freight movements and the inability to get farm machinery and exhibits here on time, a lack of guarantees, and general war conditions are the reasons for dropping the project."⁵⁶ However, at a meeting in Harrisburg six days later (December 10, 1917), called by Secretary of Agriculture C. E. Patton, for "the purpose of considering a State Show," it was decided to hold a show and a permanent

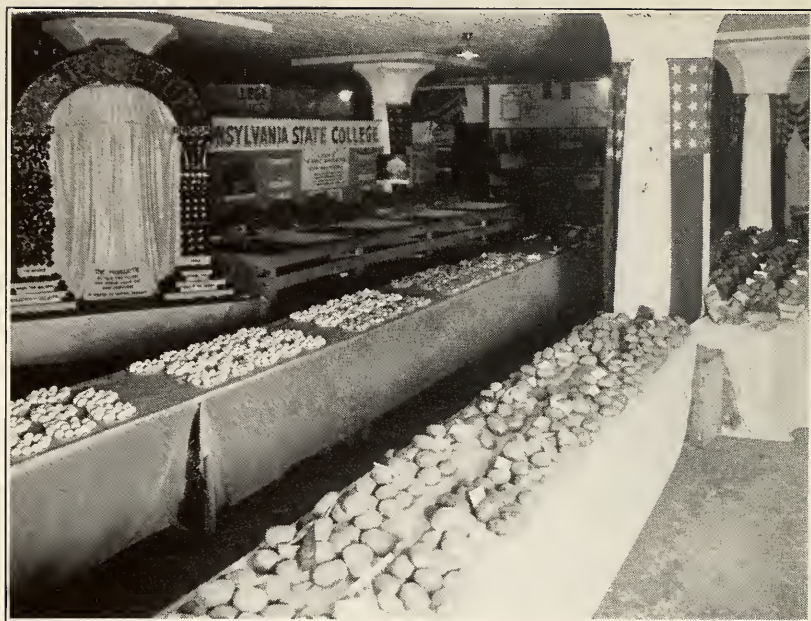
⁵⁶Evening News (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania) Dec. 4, 1917.

executive committee was organized with three members from each association cooperating in the Show.⁵⁷ This was the birth of the "State Farm Products Show Committee" which carried the full responsibility of the Exhibition until the creation of the State Farm Products Show Commission in 1927. This committee still retains a vital advisory capacity in connection with the management of the Exposition. Persons attending this 1917 meeting and the organizations represented, were: A. C. Bigelow, More Sheep-More Wool Association; E. B. Mitchell, Jr., Poultry Association; H. F. Hershey and Chester J. Tyson, State Horticultural Association; H. E. Klugh and W. R. Douglass, State Department of Agriculture; L. H. Dennis, H. C. Fetterolf and J. K. Bowman representing the State Department of Public Instruction; W. P. Stacey, Emerson-Brantingham Company; J. A. Rose, Thresherman and Farmers Association; S. E. Bruner, State Veterinary Association; R. L. Curll, International Harvester Company; Mr. Booser, Oliver Chill Plow Company; and E. K. Hibshman, Pennsylvania Breeders' and Dairymen's Association. Secretary Patton was elected chairman of the Committee, E. K. Hibshman, secretary; and H. E. Klugh, manager.

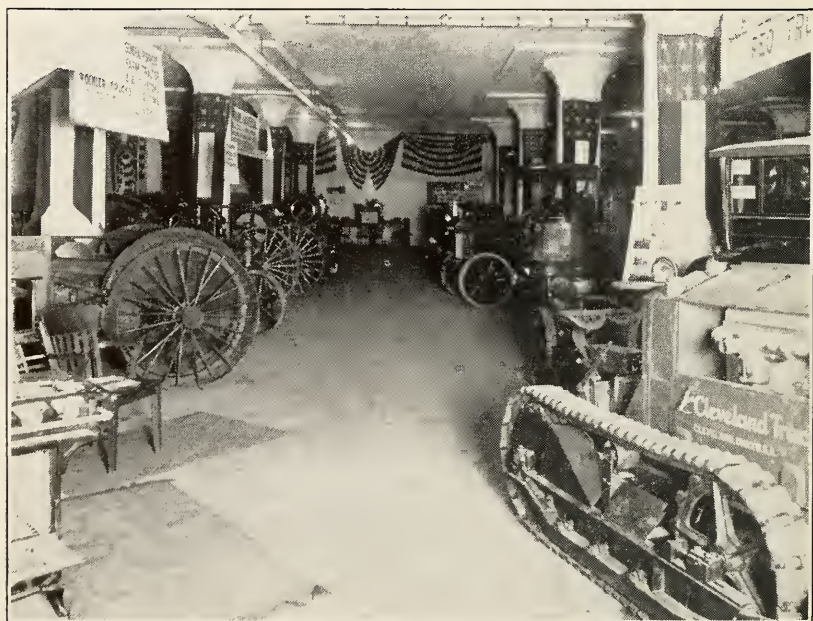
The cooperation of the various organizations in sponsoring the 1918 show was agreed upon as follows: "The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture will handle the finances and provide premium money as follows: for eggs and dressed poultry \$300, for corn \$300, for butter \$50, for fruit \$300, for vegetables \$50, for potatoes \$50; will handle the publicity through the regular Department agency; will secure the space for the exhibit including the necessary tables; and will handle the sale of the commercial space. The More Sheep-More Wool Association of the United States agrees to furnish \$100 for wool premiums on the basis that there will be at least 100 fleeces exhibited, will furnish a 'Wool-to-Cloth' educational exhibit, and will send two live western range sheep as an educational exhibit. The Pennsylvania State Poultry Association will put on an egg and dressed poultry exhibit. The State Horticultural Association will put on a fruit exhibit including box and plate exhibits and also the vegetable exhibit. The Pennsylvania Breeders' and Dairymen's Association will put on a corn, wool and butter exhibit. The Pennsylvania Potato Growers' Association will put on a potato exhibit. Each Association shall be responsible for its own judges and the placing and disposal of the exhibits."

It is probable that between December 4 and December 10, 1917,

⁵⁷Minutes of the "Harrisburg Meeting, Dec. 10, 1917" on file in the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.



Section of Competitive Exhibits at 1918 Show



Machinery Hall at First Show

the annual Farm Show idea in Pennsylvania met its most critical test. Its great educational value must have been a deciding factor in its continued existence, for soon after announcing the second annual Show to be held in January 1918, Secretary Patton explained, "the need for such a gathering and such a Show is easily seen. New conditions have arisen during the past year. Problems confront the farmer and there are many subjects that need frank and full discussion." So vital were these January 1918 meetings and show considered that the State Defense Commission guaranteed to meet any deficit up to \$2,500 incurred in holding the Exposition. The Show was so successful, however, that no part of this fund was required.

The program and premium list of the 1918 Show and conventions held January 22-24, substantiated the wisdom of the farm leaders in arranging the agricultural week. Meetings of the State Board of Agriculture, the Pennsylvania Breeders' and Dairymen's Association, the State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania, the State Poultry Association, the State Potato Growers' Association, the State Veterinary Medical Association, and the More Sheep-More Wool Association, were arranged and the State Farm Products Show included exhibits of corn, wool, butter, fruit, vegetables, dressed poultry, eggs, and potatoes. Classes for products from the home projects of vocational boys were included in several of the departments.

War conditions and problems were the main subjects of discussion at the 1918 Show. A special conference on the shortage of farm labor was arranged. The tractor was regarded as the answer to the farm problem and naturally the eleven makes on display made up the outstanding feature of the exhibition. Blazing forth in bright letters above these "mechanical horses" was a sign carrying the war-cry of tractorland which read: "The tractor will carry the flag to victory. On the battle fields it is pulling the big guns of destruction; on the farm it is fighting the battle against starvation. It is no exaggeration to say that the fate of the nation hangs on the success of the tractor's universal use. The farm tractor will carry the flag to victory."⁵¹

The agricultural meetings were well attended and probably overshadowed the Show itself because of the popular war-time subjects being discussed.

At a meeting of the Show Committee held just before the close of the Show, it was resolved to start at once to have a better and bigger Show in 1919.

GROWTH OF COMPETITIVE DEPARTMENTS⁵⁸

The 1918 Show, as already stated, had exhibits of corn, fruit, nuts, wool, eggs, dressed poultry, vegetables, potatoes and butter. In 1919, small grains, hay and tobacco were added, and in 1920, honey, milk and cheese were new exhibits. The first livestock at the annual State Show was exhibited in 1921. Dairy and beef cattle, sheep and swine were entered largely as an educational exhibit through the cooperation of the various breed associations. Examples of needlecraft and other handiwork were displayed by the vocational schools and these attracted much attention. In 1922, the livestock department was devoted exclusively to swine with a sale on the final day of the Show. Judging contests for vocational boys were extended to include swine and dairy cattle. The dairy cattle judging was conducted on farms near Harrisburg. In 1923, live poultry was first exhibited as an "all Wyandotte Show—the first in the world." Swine and sheep were also exhibited. The 4-H Clubs took part for the first time in the Show with a potato demonstration at which Pennsylvania-grown potatoes were baked. The 1924 Show included cattle and horses as the livestock feature and the 4-H Clubs entered the competitive departments for the first time. In 1925, only swine were exhibited in the livestock department and they were sold at auction as in several previous exhibitions. The 1926 Show had an exhibit of 49 Hereford steers, averaging about 1,000 pounds, entered by the Adams County 4-H Baby Beef Club. This was the beginning of the 4-H Club livestock exhibits which have since become one of the most popular and inspiring features of the Pennsylvania Farm Show. In 1926, the State demonstration contests for vocational boys and girls were also started. The Farm Show Committee (later the Commission) offered \$600 in scholarships to the six outstanding boys and girls doing meritorious work in these demonstrations. Pigeons were exhibited in the 1927 Show and maple products were added as a new department. Breed meets in the poultry show were also inaugurated at this time. The home economics department was created in 1929. In 1931 (the first year in the new Farm Show Building) competitive departments with a substantial premium list, were established for horses, sheep, swine, beef cattle and dairy cattle. The horseshoe pitching contest and the rural one-act play tournament also became new features at that time. Baby chicks were added in 1933 and a dressed turkey exhibit in 1934. In 1935 edible nuts were returned to the competitive department after an absence of more than a dozen years.

⁵⁸Taken from Premium Lists of the State Farm Products Show on file in the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Two developments between 1917 and 1921 had an important bearing upon the present set-up of the management of the Pennsylvania Farm Show. The first of these was the formation of the "State Farm Products Show Committee" in December 1917, and the second was the enactment of the State Fair Law of 1921 (Act of May 27, 1921, P.L. 1191). The successful Farm Shows of 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, and 1921 crystallized sentiment for a State Fair. For twenty years, effort in this direction was constantly put forth; it took definite legislative form and was placed before three sessions of the General Assembly. The movement was defeated twice on the floor and vetoed once. The 1921 Act created a State Fair Commission, gave it authority to make plans for a State Fair, authorized it to secure options on sites for a Fair, and appropriated \$15,000 for expenses. The personnel of the Commission included: William C. Sproul, Fred Rasmussen, Thomas E. Finegan, C. B. Connelley, Harry F. Bovard, C. F. Fendrick, P. M. Sharples, John A. Bell, Jr., John A. McSparran, Charles G. Jordan, Samuel S. Lewis and E. K. Hibshman (Secretary). The Commission had building plans drafted for a State Fair and tentatively selected a site near White Hill about three miles west of Harrisburg in Cumberland County. However, the General Assembly never appropriated money to continue the project. Two reasons have been advanced for this reversal of attitude: First, the depression of 1921-22 and the need for the greatest economy in State appropriations; and second, the lack of enthusiastic support by officials of county fairs in the Harrisburg district. The Administrative Code of 1923 continued the State Fair Commission as a unit of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, with the same power and duties as before (Act of June 7, 1923, P.L. 498, Section 1509). The Commission, however, had no responsibilities in connection with the annual State Farm Products Show.

FARM SHOW COMMISSION CREATED

By 1927, the show had grown to a point where it attracted 50,000 people. The crowded condition of the makeshift quarters greatly increased the danger of accidents and the possibility of damage suits. Since the State Farm Products Show Committee was not incorporated or authorized as a state agency, the officials of the Committee carried unlimited liability for any personal injury that might be suffered by visitors in the show buildings. Consequently, at a meeting of the Committee in February, 1927,

a motion was passed recommending that the "Show Committee be reorganized under a commission provided for by legislative enactment and that specific provision be made for an advisory board to the commission composed of representatives of the participating organizations or agencies."⁵⁹

As a result of this demand, the State Farm Products Show Commission was created by an amendment to the Administrative Code in 1927 (Act of April 13, 1927 P.L. 207, Sections 424 and 1509). This change was accomplished by replacing the State Fair Commission with the new Commission. The personnel of the State Farm Products Show Commission was provided by law as follows: The Governor, the Secretary of Agriculture (chairman), another officer of the Department of Agriculture to be designated by the Secretary of Agriculture, an officer of the Department of Public Instruction to be designated by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the dean of the School of Agriculture of the Pennsylvania State College, the director of Agricultural Extension Service of the Pennsylvania State College, and three other persons appointed by the Governor from a group of at least six nominations made by the "State Farm Products Show Committee." The duties of the Commission were to formulate plans, conduct and manage the State Farm Products Show; to lease necessary premises for the Show, and to arrange for the holding of agricultural and educational meetings in connection with the annual exhibition.

In addition to some members of the present Commission, persons who served as Farm Show Commissioners from 1927 to 1935, with the length of service of each are: John S. Fisher, 1927-1931; Gifford Pinchot, 1931-1935; Charles G. Jordan, 1927-1931; Raymond G. Bressler, 1927-1931; H. D. Allebach, 1927-1935; Miles Horst, 1927-1935; John H. Light, 1927-1935; John A. McSparran, 1931-1935; and W. S. Hagar, 1931-1935. The personnel of the present commission is as follows: George H. Earle, 1935-....; J. Hansell French, (Chairman), 1935-....; H. M. Turrell, 1935-....; H. C. Fetterolf, 1927-....; R. L. Watts, 1927-....; M. S. McDowell, 1927-...., Raymond B. Arnold, 1935-....; Fred Cook, 1935-....; and Paul Thayer, 1935-.... J. M. Fry, assistant director of the Agricultural Extension Service, Pennsylvania State College, has served as secretary of the Commission since its inception in 1927. The directors or managers of the Exhibition since 1917 have been as follows: Henry E. Klugh, 1917-1930; Raymond G. Bressler, 1930-1931; John H. Light, 1931-1935; and the present director Howard G. Eisaman.

⁵⁹Weekly News Bulletin, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, March 3, 1927.

CHANGE IN NAME

The name of the annual Exhibition evolved as follows: The first Show was designated as the "Pennsylvania Corn, Fruit, Vegetable, Dairy Products and Wool Show." Following 1917, it was referred to as the "Pennsylvania Farm Products Show," the "Pennsylvania State Farm Products Show" or the "State Farm Products Show" until 1931 when it was officially named the "Pennsylvania Farm Show."

THE FARM SHOW BUILDING

The first few State Shows were held in Emerson-Brantingham building in Harrisburg. In 1920, it was necessary to rent a large garage in addition to the two floors of the "E-B" building. From that year until 1931, the Exhibition was held in two or more buildings (sometimes quite widely scattered) in the Capital City. The agricultural meetings were also scattered among a dozen meeting halls in the business district of the city, thus working great inconvenience on visitors especially during inclement weather. In 1924 when the attendance exceeded 40,000, serious complaint arose relating to the limited housing facilities. It was suggested that the Show and meetings should be held in some other city where adequate accommodations could be provided. Nothing resulted from these protests and the Show continued to grow. The attendance reached 50,000 by 1928, and great crowds were forced to stand an hour or more outside the main exhibit building, frequently in the rain or snow before getting into the exhibit rooms. It was this condition which prevailed on Wednesday morning, January 18, 1928, when Secretary of Agriculture C. G. Jordan and H. E. Klugh, show manager, escorted Governor John S. Fisher through the Emerson-Brantingham Building and the garages housing the livestock. (The Governor had inspected the poultry department the previous evening in company with his secretary, A. Boyd Hamilton, Dean R. L. Watts, and Manager Klugh.) After this tour, Governor Fisher issued the following statement:

"I intend to keep the Show in mind when I make my recommendations to the 1929 General Assembly. This show is unique and the people themselves have developed it. It just suits the agricultural requirements of the State. It is better than the state fair idea for it is a real expression of the agricultural life of the people and the very best of that life. It is the duty of the State to make ample provisions for the Show in Harrisburg or in the State Capital district."⁶⁰

True to this promise, Governor Fisher provided for the construction of the "Farm Show Building" in his budget for the 1929-

⁶⁰Weekly News Bulletin, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Feb. 2, 1928.

1931 biennium. A bill carrying an appropriation passed the House of Representatives, but was tabled in the Senate Appropriations Committee and an appropriations bill covering the partial construction of the State Educational Building was amended to provide a lump sum appropriation for "the erection of additional State buildings in Harrisburg." In other words, there was never a specific appropriation by the General Assembly for the construction of the Farm Show Building. The original appropriation of \$4,500,000 for the Educational Building was increased to \$5,840,000 for both projects. This sum was supposed to complete the Farm Show Building and construct as much of the Educational Building as possible. The Act (Appropriation Act of April 26, 1929, No. 35A) specified that "the Farm Show Building shall be completed ready for furnishing." The original cost of the building including furnishings was about \$1,440,000. The ground for the building was broken at an appropriate ceremony on the morning of October 30, 1929, the cornerstone was laid with official formality on April 1, 1930 and the building was dedicated Monday evening, January 19, 1931, which was the opening day of the fifteenth annual Show.⁶¹

The 1931 General Assembly appropriated \$187,700 for improvements on the Farm Show building (Appropriation Act of June 13, 1931, No. 18A). This appropriation was used to build an extension of approximately 15,000 square feet to the rear unit of the building, and to purchase an additional 27 acres of ground in order to provide for future expansion of the Show. This ground is situated immediately north of the original tract and has been partly cleared and graded for parking space. The addition to the building provided much-needed room to give proper balance to the livestock show.

The Farm Show Building as it stands to-day (1936) covers 440,000 square feet of floor space, is all under one roof and has facilities for holding six conventions simultaneously. The building is regarded as the largest exhibition structure of its type in the United States. The plans for it were formulated by the building committee of the State Farm Products Show Commission in cooperation with the architect after a careful survey of many of the best exhibition structures in the United States and Canada. The original plans called for a vast amphitheatre, but this feature had to be eliminated in favor of a smaller judging arena when it was found that the bids based upon the original plans exceeded the money made available by approximately \$1,000,000.

With the enthusiastic endorsement of Governor Earle and other

⁶¹Official Catalogue and Program, Pennsylvania Farm Show, 1931, pp. 9-10.

State officials, a Works Progress Administration project covering the construction of a Farm Show Auditorium with a seating capacity of 10,000 and with dormitory facilities for the junior department, was drafted in August, 1935, and submitted to Washington by the Pennsylvania State Authority Act. This Auditorium was to face east, opening on Cameron Street and occupying a portion of the parking area northeast of the main exhibition section of the present structure. At this writing, the status of the project is uncertain due to the decision of the Pennsylvania State Supreme Court that the State Authority Act is unconstitutional.

FINANCING THE SHOW

Previous to 1923, the Show was financed by donations, by receipts from the sale of commercial space, and by a provision in the Department of Agriculture appropriations by which it was possible for the Department to pay for "premiums and other expenses incident to the State Farm Products Show and agricultural meetings held in connection therewith including the compensation and expenses of lecturers" (Appropriation Act of June 30, 1923, No. 44A). The same arrangement was continued until 1927 when a specific appropriation of \$12,000 was made to the State Farm Products Show Commission (Appropriation Act of May 11, 1927, No. 347A). In 1929, a State Farm Products Show fund was created so that all receipts from the Show could be used as a revolving fund in the payment of expenses. The money in the fund was appropriated by the Act of May 26, 1929, P.L. 823. In addition to this revolving fund an appropriation of \$54,500 for the 1929-1931 biennium was made by the General Assembly (Act of May 16, 1929, No. 354A). The 1931 sessions of the General Assembly appropriated the \$187,700 already referred to for improvements to the Farm Show Building and \$75,000 for operating expenses (Appropriation Act of June 11, 1931, No. 15A). The 1933 session appropriated \$50,000 for the use of the State Farm Products Show Commission (Act of June 3, 1933, No. 300A), and Governor Earle approved an appropriation of \$50,000 for the 1935-1937 biennium. In addition to these biennial appropriations, receipts from the sale of commercial space and other revenues incident to the operation of the Show vary from \$50,000 to \$60,000 annually.

STATE AND LOCAL FARM SHOWS

Local farm products shows held usually in October, November or December, have become a popular medium for providing com-

petition in high-quality farm and home products in Pennsylvania. These exhibitions have increased greatly in number and influence during the past twenty years under the guidance of the county extension agents and the teachers of vocational agriculture. The Pennsylvania Farm Show, held annually in January, fits admirably into this community program since it provides statewide competition for the local, prize-winning exhibits. This community or county elimination also assures a high standard of displays for the State exposition.

COOPERATING AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

The State agencies and organizations which cooperate in the State Show include the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Pennsylvania State College, State Department of Public Instruction, State Council of Agricultural Organizations, Pennsylvania State Grange, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Federation, Society of Farm Women of Pennsylvania, State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers' Association, Pennsylvania Potato Growers' Association, Pennsylvania Tobacco Growers' Association, Pennsylvania State Poultry Association, State Pigeon Show Association, Pennsylvania Beekeepers' Association, Inter-State Milk Producers' Association, Philadelphia Inter-State Dairy Council, Dairymen's League Cooperative Association, Pittsburgh District Dairy Council, Dairymen's Cooperative Sales Association, Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association, Pennsylvania Guernsey Breeders' Association, Pennsylvania Federation of Holstein-Friesian Clubs, Pennsylvania Ayrshire Breeders' Association, Pennsylvania Jersey Cattle Club, Pennsylvania Brown Swiss Breeders' Association, Association of Dairy and Milk Inspectors, State Veterinary-Medical Association, Pennsylvania Livestock Breeders' Association, Sheep Breeders' and Wool Growers' Association, Pennsylvania Hereford Cattle Breeders' Association, Pennsylvania Chester White Breeders' Association, Pennsylvania Berkshire Breeders' Association, Pennsylvania Duroc-Jersey Breeders' Association, Pennsylvania Poland-China Breeders' Association, Pennsylvania Hampshire Swine Breeders' Association, Pennsylvania Nurserymen's Association, Pennsylvania Nut Growers' Association, State Chamber of Commerce, Harrisburg Chamber of Commerce, Pennsylvania Threshermen's and Farmers' Association, Pennsylvania Joint Committee on Rural Electrification, and the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture.

Many Uses Made of Building

The Farm Show Building has served several emergency purposes and housed numerous commercial exhibitions and conventions. It is expected that eventually the building will be in use the greater part of the year as a convention hall and exposition building. This will make the building a source of considerable income for the State.

The building has been found well adapted to the most varied uses. Early in 1935 it served as temporary barracks for a small army of unemployed men during the march on Harrisburg. The Medical Society of Pennsylvania held its annual convention there in 1935 and an exhibition of equipment and fixtures for the doctor's office and the hospital was staged in the building the same week. The morticians of the State frequently hold their annual convention and exhibition of equipment and supplies in the building. Two automobile shows, two old fashioned country auctions and a Progress Exposition were housed there during 1935. During the Christmas mail rush, the building is used for the sorting of mail.

During and after the March floods in 1936, the Building was used for the housing of flood refugees, as barracks for National Guard Units on flood duty, as a warehouse for American Red Cross and Department of Health supplies and by the WPA for storing and renewing flood-damaged furniture and supplies from its administration offices in Harrisburg.

When the Works Progress Administration was organized it established its administration offices for Pennsylvania in the Building until another office building was made available. There is a possibility that the structure will be used for staging the productions of the Little Theater groups and for holding sporting events in the auditorium and arena.

APPENDIX A

The County Fair Development

The present-day county and State fairs are a combination of two motives—one commercial and the other educational—which had independent origin during the early history of this country. The older of the two ideas is the “fair or bartering place,” where producers and consumers were brought together to prevent abusive practices by middlemen. In Philadelphia detailed regulations covering the practices in these fairs were drafted and the penalty for violation in most cases was the “forfeiture of one-half of the produce to the poor of Philadelphia.”

Reading, Pennsylvania, held a unique position in the history of county fairs due to the fact that the town's founders, Thomas and Richard Penn, sons of William Penn, set aside a large central area in the city purposely for “semi-annual fairs” for bartering. The first fair of this kind was held in the market square in October 1766, according to Cyrus T. Fox, Secretary of Berks County Historical Society. This fair was apparently successful and was followed by a Spring fair in June 1767. These Spring and Fall exhibitions usually continued for two days. Evidently prizes were offered for the best products of the farm but bartering and exchanging by farmers, merchants and manufacturers were the primary objectives of the meets.

The Reading bartering fair differed from those held in Philadelphia somewhat, in that great numbers of horses and colts were brought in and much interest was taken in the trading of these animals. In many cases trials of their speed were needed to climax successfully the trading and for this important work, an old highway not far distant, was used. This soon led to horse racing which has become one of the central attractions at practically all county and State fairs.

As the educational farm products show idea developed, during the nineteenth century, the “bartering” fair broadened its scope, influenced by the agricultural societies, to include purely competitive exhibits with a premium list. It is true that many of the county fairs organized in Pennsylvania during the last half of the past century were a hybrid between the two ideas from the start. This is not true, however, of the first State Fairs. No commercial space was sold, no race track was used and no “mid-way” was provided for at these early State events. In fact, the first State Fair in Pennsylvania, held in 1851, was more nearly like the present Pennsylvania Farm Show, than like the fall State Fair now being held in most states. These early State exhibitions were predominantly educational. Long before the end of the 19th Century, however, the hundreds of county fairs and the many State Fairs throughout the United States adopted their present educational-commercial set-up with horse racing as an outstanding feature.

APPENDIX B

Early Days of the Farm Show

By Chester J. Tyson, Gardners, Pa.

(Address at Opening Meeting, Twentieth Annual Pennsylvania
Farm Show, Harrisburg, January 20, 1936.)

It is a privilege to pinch-hit for Ed. Bayard (who was absent due to illness). It would be a pleasure to do anything for Bayard, the man who has spent his whole life doing helpful things for others. Of these things, he never tells himself, but if those who have been helped were here to tell their own stories, the program tonight would be far too short.

We who have been down, sore of heart, beaten and discouraged, know the up-lift of Bayard's cheerfulness, the wisdom of his counsel, his unstinting but wise help in material ways, we know him for what he is, Wherever you are tonight, Ed Bayard, God bless your bald old head, we love you.

I may substitute but I cannot take his place. His rich stories, his way of stating unpleasant truths without malice, his far-seeing wisdom, these are traits which have made Bayard sought for as a speaker at home and far afield. So insistent have been these demands that many times his endurance has been overtaxed. In discussing this one day he said, "Tyson, I just can't turn them down. They want to hear plain, old fashioned horse sense." And that was typical of Bayard.

My subject is—"Early Days of the Farm Show"—and I have taken a moment to do honor to the man who from the turn of the century had a vision of a show in which the products of the farm and home and the supplies and equipment which go into producing them, might be brought together to be shown and studied for their educational value. He never gave up that basic idea and pressed it when opportunity arose.

My first association with Bayard and his idea of a great educational exhibition was in 1907 when I was appointed to select and exhibit apples at the first Statewide joint Farm Products Show held in Harrisburg, January 22-25 that year. Bayard was in charge of a corn exhibit. He and H. E. Van Norman, Professor of Dairy Husbandry at State College, another stalwart in the early fight for better educational shows, were responsible for exhibits of alfalfa, milk, cream and butter.

Associated also in my mind with 1907 and the five years following is the name of Gabriel Heister. His orchard and vineyard at Estherton on the northern edge of Harrisburg, were notable. He was an educator at heart and he had the vision of teaching through demonstrations and exhibitions. The early fruit shows owe much to his support moral and financial. He had a broad view. He said—"It is as important to teach city people the meaning of modern agriculture as it is to teach the farmers to grow better crops."

These men—Bayard, Heister, Van Norman and those of us who followed them, had a fundamental idea. From it the present Show has grown and the

fundamental idea persists. The Show that is all around us here this evening is unique—no other show is like it. You will find the livestock, poultry, eggs, potatoes, fruit, corn and many other products, all selected and arranged to teach some lesson; Machinery, appliances, materials for better agriculture and happier homes displayed, for sale of course, but in a manner to teach new and better ways. Then you will note how free from gambling and clap-trap devices—all part of the great idea. How well I remember those meetings back in 1907, '08 and '09 not the meetings in the Executive offices, in the Chestnut Street Hall, or the old Board of Trade, but those rump sessions in our rooms at the Commonwealth Hotel, the old Lochiel or Bolton House.

There and then we agreed that if we could get all the organizations concerned with agriculture to meet in Harrisburg in the same week each year, bringing their members together and making them responsible for an exhibition of farm products, we need have no concern but that the educational idea would be maintained. And so we planned and so it has worked out.

Unfortunately, our ardor for a great show ran away with us and when this building was planned, the needs for convention halls was far underestimated. The meeting rooms over the lobby of this building are most inadequate.

Governor Earle and Secretary French, I appeal to you that if we are to keep the stalwart support and guidance of these thirty or more associations, meeting here this week, we must provide for them comfortable and adequate rooms in which to meet. If I can get across this one idea tonight and no other, my efforts will be worthwhile.

Back of those early days the State Board of Agriculture, the Live Stock Breeders, the Dairy Union and the State Horticultural Association were meeting each year, not always in Harrisburg. It was their effort to get together, gradually succeeding, which formed the nucleus for this great joint gathering today.

At the joint session in 1907, corresponding to this one tonight, presided over by Secretary Critchfield, bald and benige, such notables spoke as Governor Edwin Stuart; Dean Thomas F. Hunt of State College, later of Berkeley, California; Dr. G. I. Christie, then of Indiana—now President of Ontario Agricultural College, Canada; Joe E. Wing the "Alfalfa Evangelist" of Ohio. How many of you here tonight remember them? They were men worth knowing.

The idea of teaching by means of exhibitions was not born with our group. George F. Johnson in his excellent history of the Farm Show points out that intermittently since 1809, 126 years ago, local or state agricultural exhibits sponsored by farm groups solely for educational purposes, have featured the country life of Pennsylvania.

Secretary French, I would like to commend this history, compiled by Mr. Johnson. It is a true story of the origin and development of the Farm Products Show idea. It is worth preserving. I hope you will find it possible to print and distribute this worthy document.

I have waited until now for reference to the part that State College has taken in all our Shows. I shall not try to give dates, but early in my experience, Dean Watts and Director McDowell showed their faith by substantial works. Their cooperation has never faltered to this day.

Teachers and research men have been encouraged to take part on programs in demonstrations and as judges. Encouraged by "Mickey," the extension forces, county agents, extension specialists and Home Economics workers, have been the back-bone yes, often the brains and muscle of the Farm Show. You have only to recall how the County Farm Products Shows, the Baby Beef and other clubs have headed up in the State Farm Show, to realize what all this cooperation has meant.

I dare not start to list the names that come to mind of these State College men. Their duty done, their fame unsung each year when the Show ends they return home tired but happy in a job well done and start to plan for next year's show.

Secretaries of Agriculture have backed and supported the Farm Show idea. Charley Patton was one of the small group who, at Lancaster in August 1916, planned the set-up which a few months later became the first regularly organized Pennsylvania Farm Show of 1917. Fred Rasmussen and Daddy Willits carried on, both enthusiastic sponsors of the Show with the educational back-ground. Secretary Jordan had the honor of erecting this building and Secretary McSparran encouraged the purchase of additional land for future expansion.

Bureau chiefs and men of the Department have always done their part, I cannot name them here.

There is one man—I want to pay tribute to him. He was just a clerk in the Department of Agriculture—a very good clerk—a Chief Clerk, but not many people knew him in a public way. This is, you didn't know him unless you had to do with the Show. If you were an exhibitor, a concessionaire, an owner of a likely exhibit building, if you were one of a hundred people useful in making the Farm Show, then you knew Henry Klugh. You knew his worth and dependability, his irresistible persistence.

In those years, prior to 1917, the Show was far under-financed—some years hardly financed at all. It was scattered over town and as it grew, it took more space and rooms had to be found four, five, even up to seven different buildings in different parts of town. And Henry managed that Show. He made the money reach—somehow. He made uncomfortable people think they were comfortable. He did three men's work and produced a good Show, growing each year a splendid foundation for what we have today. Honor to Henry Klugh, he earned it.

I shall not name more names, recount more memories, those signs of advancing years.

Oh, yes, please, just three more names and memories of course, the quiet wise counsel of R. L. Munce, the persistence of Spencer Barbour, the dependable helpfulness of M. P. Shoemaker, and just one more, the remover of obstacles, the greaser of the ways, Ed. Hibshman. For the rest, read Johnson's history. It is full of interesting facts.

I am about to close. We old chaps, we of gray hairs and bald heads are nearly done. Of course, we hope to see many more Farm Shows, but the real job is now up to you young fellows. Carry on, keep a clean Show free from fakes, better and better, rather than larger and larger. Keep agriculture in the foreground. And remember, the moment you have no lesson to teach, that moment your Show will die—Carry on.



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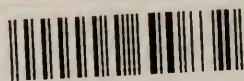
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